

Derek "Magic Man" Costella ran wide open and continued his winning ways at Mototown.

Story and photos by Dan Navarrete

# The Masters of MINI Series Finale

Despite some seriously cold and icy weather, riders from all over the country attended what has become one of the more anticipated pitbike races of the year. Held in the Northeast at Mototown USA's indoor track in Windsor, Connecticut, the TransWorld Masters of Mini series finale (as well as the entire Masters of Mini series) has grown tremendously since its inception. Not surprisingly, this year's series finale attracted a ton of riders, including several well-known factory riders, which made for good times and great racing.

Unlike some of the larger pitbike races held throughout the year, the MoM series has a lighter side to it. Thanks to an amusing sense of humor, series promoter/used car salesman/TransWorld magazine ad sales manager Dave "Davo" Olcott runs this series a little differently. For example, there are no "Pro" classes at the MoM events, just Rockstars. So who or what is a Rockstar, you ask? According to Davo, "a Rockstar is someone who has more money in their bike than some people have in a small home." This class was specifically created for those who feel they are the best of the best and yet may not consider themselves to be a true "pro" rider. As for everyone else, there are several classes to choose from, like Yoots (youths), Middle Age, Seniors, Fat Boy, Poor Boy, Ladies, Modified [88cc], Limited [110cc] and a 10/12 Open for motors over 111cc. To help keep the series fun, riders are expected to be honest when signing up for classes, which means the Fat Boys are really fat and the Ladies are actually ladies and not a bunch of dudes with small waists and long hair. Protesting is generally laughed at, and the only teardowns that take place on the track are when some riders tear off the gorilla costumes they wore earlier in the day while racing.

For the series finale, the MoM and Mototown crew created what has to be one of the largest pitbike tracks we have ever seen. Packed with banked corners, bike-eating whoops, long straights and a perfect combination of large, medium and small jumps, the Mototown track was well received by the hundreds of riders and spectators in attendance. Thanks to a huge gate, there was no need to double-stack riders on the starting line even though the classes were packed, and as expected, the racing was off the hook. Throughout the day, the long and fast track did



Large, packed gates and a long straight made for some pretty entertaining starts.



Aside from the pits, the local hospital was a popular place to hang out.

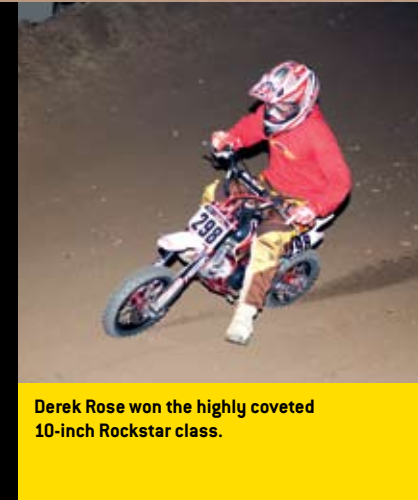


Jay Ablaza, No. 470, was a force to contend with and managed to land on top of the podium in several classes.

its best to swallow up the riders and spit them off the course, especially in the whoops sections. Although we enjoyed watching the fat guys, the ladies, the young'uns and the guys dressed like gorillas, bears, clowns, convicts and chickens battle it out on the track, the big draw of the day was the highly coveted Rockstar class. Along with a ton of local fast guys, several well-known and factory-sponsored pro riders like Derek Costella, Derek Rose, Tom Parsons, Mike Leavitt, Billy Ainsworth and Carl Schlacht all decided to come out and play.

Judging by the Mach 10 pace he set in practice, Derek "Magic Man" Costella looked to be the fastest rider in the Rockstar classes. Once the qualifiers got under way in the 10-inch class, the Magic Man would disappear off of the starting line and then reappear at the finish line before everyone else. While Costella looked to be a lock for the 10-inch

class, the main event proved otherwise. As soon as the gate dropped in the main, the riders fell into formation and immediately set an amazing pace. Costella managed to get out front and looked to be untouchable until one of the whoops sections managed to jump up and pull him off his bike. As Costella scrambled to get back up and running, most of the pack had managed to pass him by. Meanwhile, Derek Rose proceeded to take the reigns and lead the pack around the track while Kaven Benoit and Tom Parsons followed behind. With the end of the race rapidly approaching, Derek Costella continued his magic act by reappearing in the top 10 (despite wrecking for a second



Derek Rose won the highly coveted 10-inch Rockstar class.



Steve-r Cline got eighth place on his old school auto clutch 88cc.



Just your typical die-hard TransWorld supporter!



Local fast kid Joey King placed in the top five on a new TT-R110.



Fast Canadian Marco Genereux won the packed 10/12 Open class.



Carl Schlacht put in a great ride and got third place in the 12-inch Rockstar class.

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time] at a pace that few [if any] could match and quickly made his way through the pack all the way to second place. With his sights set on Rose, Costella managed to push the limits of both man and machine, but Rose showed no signs of slowing down and sustained his flawless riding all the way to the checkered flag. When it was all said and done, Rose proved to be unbeatable, followed by Costella and Benoit.

Like the 10-inch Rockstar class, Costella was once again heavily favored to take the win in the 12-inch Rockstar class. Disappointed with his previous performance, Costella launched out of the gate like a madman and once again found himself at the front of the pack. This time around, however, Derek managed to put a good gap between himself and the rest of the riders. Although his initial pace would have been fast enough to keep him in first place, Costella did not back off an inch and in fact proceeded to get faster as the race went on. About the only time Costella backed off was when he crossed the finish line for the win. Behind Costella, our "neighbor from the north," Kaven Benoit, reconfirmed that his top-three finish in the 10-inch class was no fluke. Benoit was amazingly fast and managed to lock in second place, which made us wonder why we have not seen this rider at any of the other big pitbike races. Hopefully we will see Benoit at the *MiniMoto SX*, as we know for a fact that this kid has got some serious skills. Pitbike racing rookie Carl Schlacht also managed to put in a very impressive ride, especially when you consider that he just started racing pitbikes recently. Like Costella and Benoit, Schlacht managed to sustain a very fast pace throughout the race, which allowed him to secure a third-place finish. After watching him ride, we have no doubts



Fat Boy winner Matt Gronowicz brought his own cheering section that supplied him with Twinkies and encouragement throughout the race.



Canadian Kaven Benoit was very impressive and landed on the podium in both the 10- and 12-inch Rockstar classes. Where has this guy been hiding?

that Schlacht has the potential to be a real threat once he is able to get some serious seat time under his belt.

As the series finale wrapped up, the TransWorld crew rounded up the crowd and proceeded to hand out cash and some really cool prizes like skateboards and snowboards to the winners of all the classes. As I sat back and watched the crowd, it was very obvious that the race was enjoyed by all. Even though hundreds of riders came out to race, Davo and his crew managed to keep things organized and moving forward, which made the event that much more enjoyable and left the riders with smiles on their faces throughout the day. Or maybe it was the smell of race gas and exhaust fumes that left everyone smiling? Whatever the case, the TransWorld Masters of Mini series is quite possibly the worst race series ever if you (a) don't like pitbikes, (b) don't like to race pitbikes or (c) don't like to have fun. For everyone else, the Masters of Mini series is guaranteed to be one hell of a good time. 🍌



D'oh!

Fox's new line of winter gear is . . . um . . . weird.



## RESULTS

### 10/12 Open

1. Marco Genereux
2. Anders Persson
3. Jay Ablaza
4. Jordan Troxell
5. Joshua Clark

### Fat Boy

1. Matt Gronowicz
2. Nils Tribus
3. Pete Cowern
4. Jeff "Linebacker" Webb
5. Jonathan Cyr

### Modified

1. Jay Healey
2. Tom Healey
3. Lars Tribus
4. Andy Young
5. Matthew Gudas

### Ladies

1. Shannon Courtney
2. Brianna Deoray
3. Ashley Cotnoir
4. Jenna Smith
5. Jessica Peterson

### 10-inch Rockstar

1. Derek Rose
2. Derek Costella
3. Kaven Benoit
4. Tom Parsons
5. Jordan Troxell

### Limited

1. Jay Ablaza
2. Carl Schlacht
3. Brian Kennedy
4. Scott Manchester
5. Joey King

### Poor Boy

1. Brian Rebello
2. Andy Young
3. Clint Johnson
4. Joshua Sheffer
5. Peter "Convict" Walck

### Yoots

1. Kaven Benoit
2. Marco Genereux
3. Todd Chrusciel
4. Evan Arnold
5. Kyle Hopper

### 12-inch Rockstar

1. Derek Costella
2. Kaven Benoit
3. Carl Schlacht
4. Billy Ainsworth
5. Derek Rose

### Middle Age

1. Billy Ainsworth
2. Chris Lavoie
3. Dennis Harnish
4. Marc Saulnier
5. Mitchell Giambaltista

### Seniors

1. Jay Ablaza
2. Nils Tribus
3. Brian Rebello
4. Pete Cowern
5. Lars Tribus



This is actual proof that you can teach a gorilla to wheelie a pitbike.